



BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY

Annual Report

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Department

FOR THE YEAR

1961

O S W E S T R Y

Situated close to the Welsh Border, Oswestry is predominantly a market town and agricultural centre, largely bilingual and with many activities and interests. The Smithfield is one of the leading markets, whilst the Agricultural Show is one of the biggest one-day events of its kind. Apart from the shops which serve a population of 40-50,000 the Railway repair sheds and maintenance services are the biggest employers, although light industries are being attracted by the surroundings and the adaptability and availability of local labour. Oswestry is a pleasant town in which to live, where strangers quickly find a sense of belonging.

Area (acres)	2,180
Population	11,380
Inhabited Houses (Rate Book)	3,586
Rateable Value	£164,495
Product of Penny Rate	£675.0.0

OSWESTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL
(as at December, 1961)

MAYOR:

Councillor H. W. Nicholls, J.P.

ALDERMEN:

Bristow, C.

Campbell, S. G. D., B.E.M., J.P.

Francis, T. M.

Hundley, E. M.

Morley, F. A.

Pritchard, H. E.

COUNCILLORS:

Beauclerk, A. A. De Vere

Cherrington, W. J.

Davies, G. A.

Edwards, C.

Edwards, S. H.

Howells, D. J.

Jackson, C. V.

Jones, R. D. J.

Llewellyn, H. C. H.

Roberts, J. E.

Roberts, R.

Roberts, W. J.

Symon, Mrs. P. C. M.

Turner, L. D. E.

Watkin, W.

Wilkes, G. H.

TOWN CLERK:

Cubitt, R. S.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor T. M. Francis

MAYOR:

Councillor H. W. Nicholls, J.P.

ALDERMEN:

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Howells, D. J.

Llewellyn, H. C. H.

Roberts, J. E.

Roberts, R.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

PHILIP C. MOORE, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.Obst. R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Public Health Department, 8, Oswald Road, Oswestry.

Tel: Oswestry 2588

Public Health Inspector:

RONALD J. LEWIS, F.A.P.H.I., CERT. MEAT INSP., DIP. R.I.P.H.H.

Pupil to the Public Health Inspector:

DAVID W. BOWES

Qualified October, 1961. Resigned 8th December, 1961.

Clerk to the Department:

MISS L. WILLIAMS

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
OSWESTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors,

I beg to present for your perusal the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1961.

The report has been presented in the form indicated by the Ministry of Health, which includes the Vital Statistics of the area.

The Live Birth Rate 16.35 per 1,000 population (England & Wales 17.4) shows a slight increase on 1960 when it was 16.06; 188 babies were born compared with 183 in 1960.

The Still Birth Rate was 5.29 per 1,000 live and still births, (England & Wales 18.7) which compares favourably with 21.39 in 1960. The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 16.39 (England & Wales 21.4) as against 11.0 in 1960. The Death Rate for all ages from all causes was 11.85 per 1,000 (England & Wales 12.0) compared with 10.56 in 1960. All these figures follow the national trends fairly closely. With such small numbers as those dealt with in the Borough of Oswestry an extra one or two - for instance deaths in infants under 1 year - affect the ratio considerably without actually indicating any real change in incidence.

In 1960 we were favoured with a visit from the mass radiography unit

from Stoke-on-Trent under Dr. E. Posner. The response was quite good and several previously unsuspected cases of lung and chest disease were diagnosed and subsequently treated successfully. A full account of the visit is to be found on Page 21.

The notifications of infectious disease increased considerably in the first six months of the year. This increase was largely accounted for by an epidemic of measles. Measles is an endemic disease in this country and while always with us shows a marked tendency to occur in epidemic form every other year. The notifications of measles in 1961 numbered 162 compared with 25 in 1960.

The many and varied activities of the health department were carried on faithfully and successfully again in 1961. Health education came to the fore towards the end of the year with the formation of the Oswestry Joint Home Safety Committee which was set up to try and diminish the number of accidents in the home and to promote home safety generally.

In connection with Health Education it must be appreciated that the personal contacts between the general public and all workers in the public health field are more valuable than numerous formal talks and the distribution of leaflets and posters. Propaganda against smoking, and for the promotion of food hygiene generally - to mention but two examples - are subjects which in this way the public can be made very much aware of and their co-operation enlisted.

During the year we again experienced excellent relations with the

general medical practitioners in the area. The local press have also been most helpful and co-operative - especially in matters of health education.

At the end of 1961 this country experienced the first of a series of importations of smallpox into this country. The death rate amongst those who contracted the disease was quite high. These incidents gave an added stimulus to parents to have smallpox vaccination included in the routine immunisation programmes of their young children.

The Health Department lost the services of the pupil public health inspector Mr. David Bowes who qualified as a public health inspector in November, 1961. Whilst sorry to lose his services we wish him well in his new appointment as a public health inspector in Stockport.

My thanks are due again to Mr. R. J. Lewis the public health inspector for his excellent contribution at the rear of this report, and to Miss Williams, secretary to the Health Department whose untiring and able help has contributed greatly to the compilation of this Annual Report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP C. MOORE,

Medical Officer of Health.

30th June, 1962.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1961

<u>Live Births.</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	97	86	183
Illegitimate	2	3	5
	<hr/> 99	<hr/> 89	<hr/> 188

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 16.52

Live Birth Rate after correction by Comparability Factor . . . 16.35

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 2.65

<u>Still Births.</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> -	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 5.29

<u>Total Live and Still Births.</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	97	87	184
Illegitimate	2	3	5
	<hr/> 99	<hr/> 90	<hr/> 189

<u>Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year).</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 3

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 15.95

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 16.39

Illegitimate deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0.00

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks).

Total neo-natal deaths per 1,000 total live births 15.95

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week).

Total early neo-natal deaths per 1,000 total live births 5.32

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week

combined per 1,000 total live and still births 11.05

Maternal Mortality (including abortion).

Number of deaths Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births 0.00

	Male	Female	Total
<u>Deaths from Measles</u> (all ages)	-	-	-
<u>Deaths from Whooping Cough</u> (all ages)	-	-	-
<u>Deaths from Diarrhoea</u>	-	-	-
<u>Deaths from all other causes</u>	65	71	136
<u>Death Rate per 1,000 population</u>			11.85
<u>Death Rate after correction by Comparability Factor</u>			11.85

BIRTHS, DEATHS, STILL BIRTHS, INFANT MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY

FOR THE YEAR 1961.

	Live Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Total Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Still Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Maternal Deaths	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births
OSWESTRY M.B.	188	16.52	136	11.85	1	5.29	3	15.95	-	0.30
COUNTY OF SALOP (1960)	4,897	16.20	3,237	10.71	118	23.53	95	19.40	6	1.2
ENGLAND AND WALES	804,120	17.4	551,783	12.0	15,343	18.7	17,211	21.4	274	0.33

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSE	1960	1961
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	4	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	-	-
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	18	21
Coronary disease, angina	22	30
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3
Other heart disease	22	23
Other circulatory disease	4	4
Influenza	7	4
Pneumonia	7	3
Bronchitis	7	2
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	2
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	4
Motor vehicle accidents	2	3
All other accidents	-	3
Suicide	2	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	129	136

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of death are changing slowly as is also the age structure of the population. People are living longer today and diseases which kill old folk - heart trouble, arterial diseases, cerebral haemorrhages etc., together with the cancers - are becoming predominant. Reference to the table of Causes of Death will illustrate these changes. It will be seen that deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system generally accounted for 59.5 % of the total deaths, while deaths due to malignant causes (cancers) accounted for 20.5 % of the total.

The table on cancer however shows that the death rate per 1,000 population from cancer is 2.41 which compares unfavourably with 1.787 for Salop County, and 2.16 for England and Wales.

A Ministry of Health report published in 1961 incriminated the smoking of cigarettes as a causal factor in the production of cancer of the lung - which condition is fast assuming epidemic proportions. Whilst smoking is certainly only one of many factors involved it is the only one under our direct control. The Minister of Health commented on the fact that people nowadays did not lack the knowledge but the will to put it into effect i.e. to give up or cut down smoking.

CANCER

	Deaths		Total	Rate per 1,000 Population
	M.	F.		
OSWESTRY M.B.	14	14	28	2.46
COUNTY OF SALOP (1960)	284	256	540	1.787
ENGLAND & WALES	53,441	46,473	99,914	2.16

INFANT MORTALITY

OSWESTRY M.B.	Under 1 day		1 - 7 days		7 days - 1 month		1 - 3 months		3 - 6 months		6 - 9 months		9 - 12 months		Total		Combined total	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1		

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

OSWESTRY M.B.	Deaths of infants under 1 month		Percentage of total infant deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
	M.	F.		
	2	1	3	15.95

INFECTIOUS DISEASE TABLE

Measles	162
Deaths	-
Pneumonia	1
Deaths	3
Whooping Cough	4
Deaths	-

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Measles	84	25	35	5	1	4	-	1	2	4	1	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Age	Measles		Pneumonia		Whooping Cough	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	4	2	-	-	-	-
1-	9	7	-	-	-	-
2-	13	6	-	-	-	-
3-	15	12	-	-	1	-
4-	13	4	-	-	-	1
5-	33	34	-	-	1	-
10-	3	-	-	-	-	-
15-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	1	-	-
Age unknown	3	3	-	-	-	-
Total	94	68	-	1	2	1

There has been a marked decline in the incidence of infectious diseases - especially those prevalent amongst young children - during the past few years. There is no doubt that this change can be attributed in some measure to the immunisation campaigns that are waged against the diseases.

The Ministry of Health in 1961 evolved two alternative schemes of immunisation and vaccination for young children. The scheme adopted locally is known by the term Schedule P. A description of Schedule P is given on Page 16.

SCHEDULE P.

Age	Visit	Vaccine	Injection	Interval
1 to 6 months	1	Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus 1	1	4 to 6 weeks
	2	Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus 2	2	4 to 6 weeks
	3	Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus 3	3	
7 to 10 months	4	Poliomyelitis 1		
	5	Poliomyelitis 2		
	6	Poliomyelitis 3		4 weeks
18 to 21 months	7	Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus 4		
		Smallpox during first 2 years but preferably at 4 to 5 months.		
School Entry		Poliomyelitis 4; diphtheria, tetanus.		
		Diphtheria, tetanus, smallpox revaccination.		
8 to 12 years		B.C.G. vaccines may be given to schoolchildren aged 10 years or more, at the discretion of the medical officer of health.		
Over 12 years				

SMALLPOX

Two importations of smallpox from abroad into the country occurred in December, 1961. Outbreaks of the disease in this country are always due to the importation of the disease from abroad. Modern methods of travel, especially by air, can enable a person to contract the disease abroad and land in this country before the infection is obvious.

These two importations were the beginning of an outbreak of smallpox which lasted well into the early months of 1962. It gave rise to a call by certain sections of the community for the reintroduction of the compulsory vaccination acts.

The official method however of dealing with the importation of the disease consists of vaccinating the suspect together with his immediate circle of contacts and keeping them under surveillance for the appropriate time - the so called "ring method". If secondary cases occur similar action is again taken. Mass vaccination of the public at large is not necessary or desirable but it is most important that all parents ensure that their children are vaccinated routinely against smallpox in infancy.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following tables on vaccination and immunisation are supplied by the courtesy of the Salop County Council Health Department :-

SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1961

OSWESTRY M.B.	Percentage of children under the age of 1 year vaccinated	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	Over 14	Total	Re- vacci- nations
	57.4	108	10	13	2	4	137	32

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION 1961

OSWESTRY M.B.	Total Number of children immunised
	195

TETANUS IMMUNISATION 1961

OSWESTRY M.B.	Total Number of children immunised
	168

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1961

OSWESTRY M.B.	Under 5	5-14	Total	Re-inforcing injections
	194	33	227	117

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following received their second injections in 1961:-

OSWESTRY M.B.	Children born 1961/1943		Young Persons born 1933/1942		Persons born 1932/1921		Others	
	C.C.	G.P.	C.C.	G.P.	C.C.	G.P.	C.C.	G.P.
	140	175	47	48	120	90	10	6

The following received their third injections in 1961:-

OSWESTRY M.B.	Children born 1961/1943		Young Persons born 1933/1942		Persons born 1932/1921		Others	
	C.C.	G.P.	C.C.	G.P.	C.C.	G.P.	C.C.	G.P.
	49	133	42	20	186	54	17	11

The following received their fourth injections in 1961:-

OSWESTRY M.B.	Children born 1961/1943		Young Persons born 1933/1942		Persons born 1932/1921		Others	
	C.C.	G.P.	C.C.	G.P.	C.C.	G.P.	C.C.	G.P.
	566	236	-	NOT	ELIGIBLE		-	

B.C.G. VACCINATION 1961

Schools	Consent Forms given out	Refusals	No. of Consents received	#No. of Children skin tested	#Skin Test Readings		No. vaccinated
					Pos.	Neg.	
Oswestry Boys High School	55	4	51	50	7	42	41
Oswestry Girls High School	71	6	65	58	4	54	53
Oswestry College of Further Education	2	-	2	2	-	2	2
Oswestry Boys Modern School	95	11	84	76	9	61	61
Oswestry Girls Modern School	83	4	79	71	9	58	58
Oswestry Roman Catholic School	12	-	12	11	-	11	11
<u>Private Schools</u>							
Bellan House School	3	-	3	3	1	2	2
Oswestry Grammar School	42	5	37	37	4	33	33
Queens Park School	8	-	8	8	1	7	7

Discrepancies in figures are due to absentees.

A proportion of the pupils come from Oswestry Rural District.

B.C.G. VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

The following scheme is operated by the Salop County Council:-

B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis is available, with parental consent to:

- (a) school children in the year preceding their fourteenth birthday;
- (b) children of 14 years who are still at school and students for further education, teacher training colleges, technical colleges and other establishments for further education; and,
- (c) whole school clinics, which may include a few children under 13 years for convenience.

The table on Page gives the particulars of schools in the Oswestry Borough visited for B.C.G. vaccination purposes during 1961.

All positive reactors (to the Mantoux Skin Tests) together with their school and home contacts are routinely followed up and X-rayed.

X-RAY CAMPAIGN, OSWESTRY AND DISTRICT, MAY - JUNE 1961

The Stoke-on-Trent Radiography Unit visited Oswestry in May and June, 1961. During their campaign a total of 3,984 persons were X-rayed in the Borough. This was quite a good response. Four cases of presumably active or clinically significant tuberculosis, 42 cases of other significant respiratory conditions (including cancer of the lung) and 29 heart conditions were discovered. It was a major contribution towards eliminating tuberculosis from the community and towards the discovery of other

conditions, many of which are amenable to treatment if diagnosed in the early stages.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS 1961

The number of cases on the tuberculosis register at the end of 1961 did not show any appreciable change despite the visit of the mass radiography Unit earlier in the year. The following table gives a 'breakdown' of the 1961 figures.

	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Civilian cases	1	1	-	1	1	2
Service cases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	2	-	-	1	2	1
TOTAL	3	1	-	2	3	3
Cured	4	4	-	1	4	5
Left District	2	-	1	-	3	-
Deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of cases on Register at the end of the year:-

Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
48	30	3	10	51	40

Number of primary notifications during the year 3

Death Rate Nil

Death Rate per 1,000 population (Respiratory Tuberculosis)

ENGLAND & WALES. . . . 0.072

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Apart from routine medical inspections which I carry out in schools and clinics, I carry out from time to time:-

- (a) Pre-employment Examinations of all entrants to local government service employed by Oswestry Borough Council.
- (b) Examinations to ascertain the fitness of children (aged 13 years and over) to engage in part time work outside school hours. The scope and duration of this employment is strictly controlled by law. (Children & Young Persons Act, 1933).
- (c) All entrants to the teaching profession.
- (d) The assessment of the fitness of various individuals to continue their present employment.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY CLINICS

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946 the County Council, the local health authority, provide child welfare clinics. The clinic in Oswestry is held in Upper Brook Street every Wednesday from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus are provided, as well as vaccination against smallpox. Facilities are also available for immunisation against poliomyelitis.

Welfare Foods - orange juice, cod liver oil preparations, other vitamin preparations, powdered milk and cereals for babies - are all on sale at the

clinics. These welfare foods are also on sale daily except Thursday.

The Clinic is staffed by experienced health visitors who can advise mothers on any problem connected with the rearing, feeding and management of babies and young children. A doctor is always in attendance.

DENTAL CLINICS

The Salop County Council provide a dental service for expectant and nursing mothers and for pre-school age and school age children. The aim of the School Dental Service is to ensure that, as far as is practicable, children will leave school without the loss of permanent teeth, free from dental disease and irregularity and trained in the care of their teeth. The dentist holds frequent weekly sessions in the clinic at Upper Brook Street, Oswestry.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS

Two sessions weekly are held in Shrewsbury and two in Wellington. Sessions are also held in all parts of the County as the need arises. The staff includes a Psychiatrist, a Psychologist and a Psychiatric Social Worker.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service is provided by Salop County Council as one of its functions under Part III of the National Health Service Act. It helps to maintain the aged and the sick in their homes. This excellent service is run in Oswestry and District by the supervisor Mrs. Crombie who has 21 home helps under her control.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action was taken under the above Act by the Medical Officer of Health in 1961.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT

The following hospitals and clinics are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board which was constituted in accordance with the National Health Service Act.

Oswestry & District Hospital. Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury, treats cases of Enteric Fever, Meningitis, Acute Poliomyelitis and Acute Encephalitis.

Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury admits cases of other infectious diseases such as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, etc.

Other hospitals which provide accommodation are Cross Houses Hospital, Shrewsbury, The Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, The Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury and the Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

Tuberculosis.

The Chest Physician attends at:-

The Clinic, Upper Brook Street, Oswestry

every Friday from 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Chest Clinic, Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury

every Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Venereal Disease. Facilities for treatment:-

No.1, Belmont, Shrewsbury as follows:-

Females: Monday - 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Thursday - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Males: Tuesday)
Friday) 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Under the National Health Service Act, it became the duty of the County Council, the local health authority, to make provisions for securing that ambulances and other means of transport are available for the conveyance of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness and expectant mothers or nursing mothers, from places in their area to places in or outside their area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury. The Bacteriologist is Dr. A.C. Jones, the Pathologist, Dr. G. Grant.

This service undertakes work for local authorities free of charge in so far as it is relevant to diagnosis. It is particularly invaluable in the expeditious dealing with the bacteriological examination of food samples.

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

The following figures supplied by the Shropshire branch include donors resident in the Oswestry Rural District. Public spirited members of the community continue to support the twice yearly sessions of this valuable service but new volunteers are constantly needed to replace those leaving the district or reaching 'retiring age', and to keep pace with the ever increasing demand for blood transfusion as a part of Hospital treatment.

Those of us who have received blood transfusions for ourselves or a member of our family, owe a debt of gratitude which no money can repay to these donors.

Attended

272

Bled

262

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to the Water Engineer for the following notes on water supply, etc.

Rainfall at the Penygwely Reservoirs for the year was 39.79 inches. This compares with an average of 38.00 inches during the Standard Period 1881 to 1915.

Consumption for the year was 157,399,000 gallons.

(1) Number of premises supplied from public water: 4,093 approx.

(2) Number of population supplied from public mains: 11,276 "

(a) direct to premises (1) 4,067 "

(2) 11,224 "

(b) by means of standpipes (1) 13

(2) 52

Nature of supplies to remaining houses:

13 Houses supplied by private systems.

8 Houses supplied by wells.

4 Houses supplied by Liverpool supply.

1 House supplied by Oswestry Rural District supply.

The houses supplied by wells are isolated dwellings on the outskirts of the town some considerable distance from the mains.

The water has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity. The Corporation gathering grounds and impounding reservoir at Penygwely, together with the storage reservoirs at Mount Road do not normally provide a sufficient supply for the requirements of the town, but it is possible to augment this by drawing 250,000 gallons per day from the Liverpool Corporation Lake Vyrnwy Aqueduct, this latter supply being obtained under powers granted by an Act of Parliament.

The treatment given consists of an average period of seven days storage followed by rapid filtration with the prior addition of lime and coagulant, lime and calgon after filtration, and chlorination by the Chloramine system.

The water supply to all parts of the town is constant and more than 99% of all dwelling-houses have direct supplies or standpipes within easy distance.

REPORTS OF ANALYSES

Ref.Q/PH/74 (Raw Water).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Faint opalescence with a very slight deposit.

Microscopical examination: Traces of mineral and organic debris.

Turbidity: Less than 3

Colour: 35

Odour: Nil

pH: 7.0

Free Carbon Dioxide: 2

Electric Conductivity: 80

Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C: 60

Chlorine present as Chloride: 6

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 12

Hardness: Total: 27

Carbonate: 12

Non-carbonate: 15

Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.4

Nitrite Nitrogen: Absent

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.000

Oxygen Absorbed: 4.1

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.15

Residual Chlorine: ...

Metals: Iron: 0.12. Zinc, Copper, Lead & Manganese: Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies	}	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20-22°C.
developing on Agar		170 per ml.	190 per ml.	250 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-	}	Present in	Absent from	Probable number
form reaction		1 /	0.1	80 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type I)		10 ml.	1 ml..	25 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction		100 ml.	10 ml.	

/ Intermediate Type II

This sample shows only slight opalescence and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is neutral in reaction, very soft in character, has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents and it is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. It shows distinct colour but organic impurity relates largely to this colour and bacterial impurity is very moderate for a surface water. No exceptional difficulty would be expected in the treatment of this water for the production of a public supply.

Ref.Q/FH/75 (Tap Water).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with very few particles.

Turbidity: Less than 3

Colour: 19

Odour: Nil

pH: 7.3

Free Carbon Dioxide: 2

Electric Conductivity: 95

Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C: 67

Chlorine present as Chloride: 7

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 16

Hardness: Total: 35

Carbonate: 16

Non-carbonate: 19

Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.2

Nitrite Nitrogen: approx. 0.01

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.057

Oxygen Absorbed: 2.2

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.091

Residual Chlorine: 0.04

Metals: Iron: 0.10. Zinc, Copper, Lead: Absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing on Agar	)	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20-22°C.
	)	6 per ml.	8 per ml.	11 per ml.
Presumptive Coli- form reaction	)	Present in - ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Probable number 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type I)		- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction		- ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents. It shows only slight colour and is of satisfactory organic quality. Bacterial purity is of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

25th October, 1961.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Number of premises connected to public sewers	4,056
Number of premises connected to satisfactory private sewage disposal or treatment works	44
Number of premises without satisfactory means of sewage disposal	11

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Number of Wards in the town	6
Number of Wards where refuse is collected	6
Method of collection	By direct labour.
Method of disposal:	Controlled tipping

R E P O R T
O F
C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

In presenting this report on the work of the Public Health Inspectorate, I once again find the difficulty of not repeating what has been said in previous years. During 1961 the routine duties of meat inspection, food inspection and food hygiene control, inspections of shops and factories, elimination of vermin, consideration of smoke control problems, and of course, the improvement of living conditions. The continual aim must be to raise standards, and in Public Health we, the Council, Committee and staff, can never rest on our laurels.

Again I thank the Council and Health Committee for their continued support during 1961, and my colleagues in this and other Departments for their continued assistance and support, especially Miss Williams who once again has produced this report with its many pages of statistics.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. LEWIS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

FOOD HYGIENE AND FOOD STANDARDS

Routine inspections were carried out of food premises, improvements being made and planned. As a result of the surveillance of plans deposited with the Borough Surveyor, and I must thank him for his co-operation, it was possible to obtain improvements in the proposals of development for two multiple food stores.

A constant surprise to me is that housewives would continue to buy food, such as cake, bread, sweets and other things that are eaten without further preparation, and which would be exposed to fingers, coughs and sneezes if it was not for official insistence that it should be screened. I believe that there is now enough choice to enable the public to shun the food trader who is not conscious of the need to maintain a good standard of food hygiene.

Milk and Dairies.

Oswestry is a specially designated area; the bulk of milk being processed outside the town and distributed by local dealers. No complaints were received of lack of keeping quality or otherwise failures to maintain the high standard of dairy hygiene which is now a normal feature of urban life.

Ice Cream.

Producers - Nil.

Retailers - 66.

Nearly all ice cream is sold in the wrapper or container in which it is placed at the producing factory. A new development, which will have to

be kept under surveillance, is the placing of "soft ice cream" plants in vans, although none were operating in this area in 1961.

Mobile Shops.

Grocery - 3.

Greengrocery - 3.

These maintain a reasonable standard, and are inspected regularly. The grocery vans have refrigeration and hand washing facilities if they sell loose bacon and cheese.

MEAT INSPECTION

All animals slaughtered in the Borough were inspected, and I must thank the butchers for their combined co-operation. The high rate of fascioliasis (fluke) in bovines which I reported in my 1960 Report is over, and the figure has returned to more normal levels. The incidence of m. tuberculosis in cattle continues to decrease, whilst the continuing fall of the incidence of m. tuberculosis in pigs is necessitating the use of laboratory facilities to ensure that glandular conditions which are similar to, but not typical of m. tuberculosis are correctly classified. The Public Health Laboratory at Shrewsbury are always most helpful, and in this way the meat inspection service of Oswestry has the backing of trained laboratory staff.

MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,971	-	103	13,213	4,431
Number inspected	1,971	-	103	13,213	4,431
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	182	-	-	23	97
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	9.23	-	0.97	0.17	2.08
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	-	144
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.35	-	-	-	3.24

Cysticercus Bovis generalised (carcase and offal condemned) - Nil
 " " localised (carcases frozen) - 4.

Slaughtering facilities.

Consist of (a) Slaughterhouse run by a company formed by the local butchers (Oswestry & District Wholesale Meat Supply Co., Ltd.).

(b) Two small private slaughterhouses.

During the year work was carried out at all three slaughterhouses to raise them to the standards required by the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations. Stunning boxes, improved lighting, hanging space and washing facilities are amongst the facilities provided at each premises.

Animals slaughtered and inspected.

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
1,971	103	13,213	4,431

Details of Condemnation.

1. <u>Tuberculosis.</u>	<u>Heads</u>	<u>Livers</u>	<u>Lungs</u>	<u>Other Offal</u>
(a) Cattle	7	1	2	-
(b) Pigs	144	-	1	-
2. <u>Fascioliasis (fluke).</u>				
(a) Cattle	-	Part/72 Whole/29	2	-
(b) Sheep	-	8	-	-

3. Cysticercus Bovis.

Localised C.B. - 4 Heads and offals. Carcases frozen.

4. <u>Abcesses.</u>	<u>Heads</u>	<u>Livers</u>	<u>Lungs</u>	<u>Other Offal</u>
(a) Cattle	1	31	1	-
(b) Pigs	2	2	-	-
5. <u>Nechrosis.</u>				
(a) Cattle	-	4	-	-
6. <u>Ascaris Lumb.</u>				
Pigs	-	57	-	-
7. <u>Pneumonia</u>				
Pigs	-	-	4	-
8. <u>Telangectasis.</u>				
Cattle	-	1	-	-

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The air filter equipment was maintained at a school on the South West side of the town for most of the year and then brought back to the Health Department in the Town Centre. No steps were taken to form a smoke control zone.

SHOPS ACTS

Number of shops not handling food - 170.

Enforcement of whole of provision of Shops Acts legislation and certain legislation concerning the employment of young persons.

RODENT CONTROL

The control of rodent pests continues to be through a scheme jointly operated by the Rural District and Borough Councils, one operative only now being employed. The continued good results of the four year campaign against "black areas" of sewer infestation are illustrated in the following figures.

	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Autumn</u>
1957 - Manholes treated . . .	52	74
Manholes infested . . .	35	34
1960 - Manholes treated . . .	60	42
Manholes infested . . .	5	14
1961 - Manholes treated . . .	44	26
Manholes infested . . .	3	2

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Cimex lectularius (bed-bug) Nil

Blatta (cockroach) 35

The cockroach infestations have mainly occurred in pre-war council houses and the treatment of blocks of houses has continued.

CINEMAS

The two Cinemas in the town are inspected annually and a Certificate issued which is submitted to the Magistrates.

STAFF

During the year David Bowes qualified as a Public Health Inspector. He entered the Department in 1957 and for the first year attended day release classes at the local Technical College. In 1958 he obtained a place on the "sandwich course" at the Royal College of Advanced Technology at Salford; for the next three years he spent half of each year at the College and half of each year gaining practical experience with this Council.

When qualified he obtained a post with the Stockport Borough Council, and after a short service with them moved to Stevenage as Additional Public Health Inspector.

The Council decided that the establishment should be brought back to strength by appointing an Additional Inspector and this appointment was made in January, 1962.

PROBLEM FAMILIES

Although Oswestry does not have many, it has some which present a continual problem. Usually the family has a number of children, a low income and some history of chronic illness in one or both parents. When they occupy a Council house I am required to see that they maintain it properly, but too often I know that money which they are forced to spend on decoration will come off the grocery bill or the rent - with the result that the children will suffer or rent arrears will accumulate. If the latter happens, eviction will follow, but if I report them to the Housing Committee for failing to maintain the house, eviction will again follow. If eviction does take place, the problem is worsened because there is then a homeless family who, in a civilised society, cannot be ignored, and who may be kept in a County Council home at a cost far in excess of the rent of the old home.

Too often problems arise because the parents are of too low a mentality to resist the sales and advertising techniques which are scientifically devised to seduce them.

The real consolation is that such families would appear to be getting fewer, and the hope for the future can only lie in trying to maintain a home life of sufficiently high standard to ensure that their children do not themselves perpetuate the position.

HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961.

A. 1. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	50	48	19
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ...	4	4	3
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
Not in Clearance Areas			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	-	13	4
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	-	-	-
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ...	-	-	-
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	-	-	-
A. 2. Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed	-	-	-
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED			
(8) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	1	4	1
(9) Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED						
					By Owner	By Local Authority
(11)	After informal action by local authority	...	...	...	53	////
(12)	After formal notice under					
	(a) Public Health Acts	...	...		1	2
	(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	...	...		-	-
(13)	Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-	////
D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)						
Position at end of year					Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
(14)	Retained for temporary accommodation					
	(a) under Section 48	...	...		9	9
	(b) under Section 17 (2)	...	...		-	-
	(c) under Section 46	...	...		-	-
(15)	Licensed for temporary occupa- tion under Sections 34 or 53	...			-	////
E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT						
					Number of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
(16)	Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the year	...	...	...	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	14	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	94	25	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	108	27	2	-

2.- CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT
Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply Lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel) Making etc.,	-	-	-	-	-	-
) Cleaning and	-	-	-	-	-	-
) Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply Lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Lace, lace cur- tains and nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and upholstery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electro-plate	-	-	-	-	-	-
File making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brass and brass articles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fur pulling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and Steel cables and chains	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and Steel anchors and grapnels	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cart gear	-	-	-	-	-	-
Locks, latches and keys	-	-	-	-	-	-
Umbrellas, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nets, other than wire nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sacks	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Racquet and tennis balls	-	-	-	-	-	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pea picking	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feather sorting	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stuffed toys	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basket making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chocolates and Sweetmeats	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cosaques, Christmas stock- ings, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Textile weaving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total ..	-	-	-	-	-	-

